

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday November 5th, 2023

Silent Key – Paul Barnett EI7JM

We regret to report the death of Paul Barnett EI7JM on Friday Oct 27th. Based in Donegal, Paul was an avid fan of topband operation, big tube amps, and broadcast radio. Using his big aerial system, he was one of the most well-known and regular operators taking part in the popular 1.933 MHz topband net. May Paul rest in peace.

IRTS AGM Weekend 2024

The IRTS is delighted to announce that the 91st AGM Weekend will take place over the weekend of April 13th and 14th 2024. The event, which will be hosted by the Shannon Basin Radio Club, will take place in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

The weekend will consist of the usual very interesting Saturday afternoon workshops/talks, the Saturday night gala dinner, the ever-popular Sunday morning radio rally, and of course, the IRTS 2024 AGM which will take place on Sunday afternoon April 14th. A special room rate package has been negotiated for the event.

Further details will be released in due course. Everyone in the IRTS would like to express their sincere thanks to the Shannon Basin Radio Club for undertaking the task of hosting next year's event.

South Dublin Radio Club Discuss Software Defined Radio

On Tuesday November 14th, 2023, at 7:30pm, Mark EI4ACB will give a talk titled "Introduction to Software Defined Radio". Visitors are welcome to attend at the community centre on the Marian Road in Rathfarnham in Dublin. The talk will begin with a brief introduction to the fundamental principles that lie at the heart of Software Defined Radio (or SDR) including sampling, the significance of Nyquist zones, undersampling, and the quadrature representation of signals. This will be followed by a review of the development of Software Defined Radio and the evolution of the various SDR architectures from the early days in the 1990s through to those used today.

To illustrate the various principles and design concepts behind the development of SDRs, the talk will be illustrated with examples that include the popular Icom IC-7300 transceiver, the HACK RF One SDR and SDRPlay devices, and the RTL SDR dongle. Finally, several of the popular SDR software applications such as SDR Console, AirSpy, SDR Uno, and SDR Plus Plus will be discussed. The presentation will conclude with practical demonstrations of a few of the SDR radios discussed.

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club Update

Regular meetings of the Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club have resumed on the second Thursday of each month in the Technological University of the Shannon, Midlands, Midwest in Moylish, Limerick at 7.30 p.m. A central feature of each meeting is a presentation on a theoretical or practical topic of relevance to members, students and anyone interested in radio. The next meeting will be held on November 9th. Joe, EI9HG, will give a presentation on his experience with the horizontal loop antenna.

The club station, callsign EI4SAM, will continue to be activated every Saturday in November between 11.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. The usual calling frequency is 7.123 MHz, plus or minus QRM, is the usual frequency although other bands on HF and VHF are also monitored. They are always glad to receive feedback on their signals and urge as many people as possible to get in touch.

Many Transition Year students have visited the club station recently and have received detailed presentations on various aspects of radio and electronics. The club attaches great importance to this activity and includes both theory and practical sessions. Generally, the group has found that students are not very aware of amateur radio and sessions such as these are excellent to enhance their knowledge and promote interest in the hobby.

Irish Hour Net

The Irish Hour Net is a HF net that takes place daily from 17:00 UTC. Mike McHugh KD2DYY is the net controller based in Syracuse, New York State. The present and longstanding frequency for the net is 21.317 MHz. If required due to propagation and/or contest activities, the net uses an alternative frequency centred on 18.112MHz +/- QRM. The Irish Hour Net enjoys regular call-ins from operators all around the world. Everyone is welcome to join, and participants do not have to be Irish.

RSGB 1.8MHz Club Calls Contest

The RSGB 1.8MHz Club Calls Contest take place on Saturday 11th November. Running from 20:00 to 23:00 UTC, this is intended to be a fun introduction to 160 metre band contesting. Operators can choose one either SSB only or CW & SSB sections using a maximum power of 32 Watts. Further information may be found at www.rsgbcc.org

Marquesas Islands and Chatham Island DXpeditions

The TX7L DXpedition team is operating from the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia. This is an overseas country of France in the Pacific Ocean. This DXpedition is scheduled to run from November 4th up to November 19th. Nine operators will be working four stations on the 160 to 6-metre bands using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, and RTTY.

You can also listen out and try to work Chatham Island. The ZL7A DXpedition team

comprising three Japanese operators is scheduled to operate from November 9th to the 22nd. Chatham Island is a South Pacific archipelago 680km southeast of New Zealand's North Island. The ZL7A team will be operating three stations on 160 to 10 meters using SSB, CW, and digital modes. You may be interested to note that the exact opposite side of Earth from Ireland is only 1,000km from Chatham Island therefore making it one of the longest distance terrestrial contacts you can attempt from EI.

Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam /at/ irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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